

Literature and Friendship.

It is well known that Mr. Whistler, the American-born painter, once challenged George Moore, the novelist, to a duel, but the origin of the quarrel is not, perhaps, well known. Mr. Moore wrote a critical article wherein he lauded the work but ridiculed the personality of Whistler. On the appearance of this article he sent it to his friend, saying in the note that accompanied it that he hoped nothing he had written would make any difference in their friendship. Mr. Whistler's retort was characteristic. He wrote: "The next time I see it is probable that I shall pull your nose. But this will make no difference in our friendship, I hope."

Big Production of Aluminum.

The reduction of alumina to metal is now progressing in America on what would have been regarded ten years ago as a stupendous scale. With 11,000 horse-power operating at Niagara Falls, and 5000 horse-power at Shawinigan Falls, in Quebec, America possesses 16,000 horse-power devoted to producing this metal. This will produce aluminum at the rate of 4500 tons yearly, or a production twice as large as the rest of the world put together.

No Hodgecarrying in Japan.

There is no hodgecarrying in Japan. The native builders have a method of transporting mortar which makes it seem more like play than work—to the onlooker. The mortar is mixed in a pile in the street. One man makes this up into balls of about six pounds weight, which he tosses to a man, who stands on a ladder midway between the roof and the ground. This man deftly catches the ball and tosses it up to a man who stands on the roof. This plan would scarcely work for skyscrapers.

The Kaiser as Speechmaker.

A newly published volume of the kaiser's speeches during the past fourteen years contains over 400 of those imperial masterpieces, each of which, according to the kaiser's theory of government, is above criticism. The average number of speeches delivered in one year seems to have been about thirty, which gives to the kaiser high rank among the oratorical rulers of Christendom. Yet Mr. Roosevelt's record, in his presidency, beats the kaiser's to death, if the two be compared on the basis of the one-year period.

The Cartoonist's Disadvantages.

"Mr. Punch" has discovered the fact that the only place where the cartoonist and caricaturist are safe are Great Britain and the United States. In France, he goes on to say, the cartoonist is likely to be challenged to a duel. In Germany there are laws about lese majeste. The Turkish caricaturist, if there is any such being, lived, on the average, one week after taking up the profession. In China the fun-maker is liable to disembarkment, the occasion being made a public holiday, with fireworks in the evening.

The Passing Georgia Colonels.

This is the last year of the free and unlimited coinage of Georgia colonels. The new law which forbids the governor from having more than twenty-eight officers on his military staff does not apply to Governor Terrell, who will luxuriate in a staff of 133—and every one a colonel. Because of the time limitation, the pressure to get a colonelcy under Terrell has been severe, and the governor has yielded gracefully to it. He does insist, however, that each new colonel shall buy a uniform before April next, a condition which may reduce the noble band of 133 to smaller proportions.

Men Blush More Than Women.

One of the most ill-founded of all popular delusions is that blushing is the special characteristic of the female sex, the New York Commercial declares. As a matter of fact, except in the case of very young girls, men blush far more readily than women. The well-bred woman never blushes at all, while it is a matter of everyday experience that in the excitement of business of political discussions men's cheeks redden with very little provocation. Whatever may have been the case a hundred years ago, the modern woman shows her emotion, not by blushing, but by turning pale.

She Has 4,000 Godfathers.

Princess Irene of Prussia is better provided for in the matter of godfathers than any other woman in the world. She can boast of no less than 4000 godfathers, and how she came to obtain so many is a pretty story. When she was born the war of 1886 was drawing to an end, and, peace being concluded just at the time of her christening, her father, Prince Henry, of Hesse, requested all of the officers and men of the regiments of his command to stand godfathers to his little daughter, whom he named Irene (Peace) in commemoration of the end of the war.

Knows the Senate Well.

Elmer Dover, Senator Hanna's private secretary, went home to Cleveland for the holidays and while there met a Toledo lawyer named Cooper. In the course of a chat Cooper declared that he could name every man now in the United States senate and every man who had served in the senate at any time in twenty years; also that he could name two-thirds of the present members of the house of representatives, together with their states. Mr. Dover laughingly offered to bet him a box of the finest cigars on this proposition and a number of others made the same offer. Cooper accepted all bets and called for a pad of paper. In just half an hour he had made good his boast and now he has cigars enough to last him all summer.

Ear Lobes Relics of Barbarism.

The Japanese have no ear lobes. This discovery has apparently been made for the first time by Dr. Von Der Heyden, director of the public hospital in Yokohama. Even if he was not the first to discover it, he is certainly the first to draw public attention to it. The absence of the ear lobes, he says, is in some respects the most marked distinction between the Japanese and Europeans, and he maintains that the probable reason why the latter have lobes is because their ancestors for many generations wore heavy earrings.

Entertaining Royalty.

Apropos of the great expense of entertaining royal guests the following story is told: When in 1867 Rothschild entertained Napoleon III. at his chateau de Ferrieres the latter, on taking leave of his host, thanked him for his charming hospitality. Rothschild, answered: "Sire, j'en conserverai toujours le memoire." He meant "la memoire," but his genders in French were very shaky, and so, instead of saying, as he intended, "I shall always keep the memory of the event," he said, "I shall always remember the bill."

Thoughtful Landlord.

Nightcaps and cotton earwads are provided by the proprietor of a hotel at Vyitra, Hungary, for those of his guests who retire early and do not wish to be kept awake by a Gypsy band which plays nightly at the hotel.

The Giant of the House.

Representative Cyrus Sulloway, of New Hampshire, the giant of the house, insists that he is still growing. He took his annual observations one day this week and found he measured 6 feet 7 1-2 inches in height and weighed 276 pounds.

Seven New Poisons.

Professor Julius Schlotterback, professor of pharmacology in the University of Michigan, has discovered seven new poisons. Three of them are made from Allegheny vine, two from the cadaine poppy and two from the Japanese calandine.

How Tom Ochiltree Got Out.

The way the late Colonel Tom Ochiltree got released from the Federal prison on Johnson's Island, at the close of the civil war, was to write this delightfully impudent yet cheery note to President Andrew Johnson:

"Mr. President Johnson: When you get ready to let me leave your island, please let me know, and I will accept the same terms as Gen. Lee."

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Time Table.

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